



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

the specimens in the college herbarium. Upon making the comparison he writes: "The *Prunus pumila* sent I can not distinguish from northern specimens, New York and New Jersey."—EDWARD READ MEMMINGER, *Flat Rock, N. C.*

Synopsis of the genus *Panicum* Linn.—The species of the United States may be divided into the following sections:

Section I. DIGITARIA. Panicles of several spikes or spike-like branches, which are digitate or approximate at the top of the culm: spikelets usually small and in alternate pairs along one side of the flattened rhachis, one sessile and one shortly pedicelled; empty glumes 2, or sometimes 3, the lower one then being minute.

Species 4.

Section II. TRICHACHNE. Spikelets densely silky-hairy, or fringed with long hairs, sessile or shortly pedicelled, in pairs or clustered along the rhachis of the numerous simple spikes or branches of the panicle, acute; lower glume minute.

PP. leucophæum HBK., *luchnanthum* Torr.

Section III. BRACHIARIA. Panicle subspicate or with several short sessile simple branches: spikelets sessile or subsessile.

1. *Paspalidea*. Panicle of few (3 to 6) simple, mostly sessile, spreading branches, the spikelets sessile in two rows on one side of a flattened rhachis, as in *Paspalum*, but with a small lower glume.

PP. platyphyllum Munro, *plantagineum* Link.

2. *Subspicata*. Panicle linear or narrow, the branches short, sessile, erect or appressed, or the apex spicate.

*Branches densely flowered.

PP. paspaloides, *Curtisii*, *obtusum*, *reticulatum*, *Texanum*.

**Branches lax flowered.

PP. Chapmani, *Reverchamii*, *subspicatum*, *stenodes*.

3. *Approximata*. Branches erect or somewhat spreading (not appressed), mostly approximate.

PP. prostratum, *cæspitosum*, *fasciculatum*, *grossarium*.

4. *Polystachya*. Branches of the panicle numerous, spreading, single or subfasciculate, simple or with short branchlets at the base: spikelets sessile.

PP. pilosum, *laxum*, *barbinode*, and small forms of *anceps*.

Section IV. EUPANICUM. Branches of the panicle more or less subdivided, single or fascicled, usually spreading and naked below; spikelets subsessile or pedicelled, sometimes glomerate.

1. Panicle narrow, depauperate; branches few, erect.

PP. xanthophysum, *depauperatum*, *angustifolium* Chapm.

2. Panicle small but diffuse, branches rather few-flowered and short.

PP. scoparium, *consanguineum*, *laxiflorum*, *dichotomum*, and related forms.

3. Panicle small or large, branches long: spikelets scattered or glomerate.

PP. gymnocarpon, hians, barbinode, laxum.

4. Panicle larger, branches subdivided: spikelets pedicelled.

PP. latifolium, clandestinum, viscidum, scabriusculum, commutatum, Nealleyi, microcarpon and var.

5. Panicle effuse, branches capillary and much subdivided.

PP. capillare, proliferum, Hallii, autumnale, Buckleyi, miliacea, verrucosum.

Tall grasses, with ample and diffuse panicle.

PP. anceps, agrostoides, virgatum, amarum, maximum, bulbosum, avenaceum, Havardii.

7. Frutescent: spikelets large and turgid; empty glumes loose.

P. divaricatum Linn.

8. Panicle diffuse: spikelets large; the glumes very silky-villose.

P. Urvilleanum Kth.—DR. GEORGE VASEY, *Washington, D. C.*

EDITORIAL.

WHAT are the duties of the new experiment stations established at the state agricultural colleges by the national government, and recently made operative by congressional appropriation? The stations have two functions, as laid down by the law—"acquiring and diffusing" knowledge—and it is well to notice the significant order in which they are mentioned. The second section of the act specifies in what lines acquisition may be made, and it is our present purpose only to call attention to that part which relates to the study of plants. "It shall be the object and duty of said experiment stations," so the law reads, "to conduct original researches or verify experiments on the physiology of plants and animals, the diseases to which they are severally subject, with remedies for the same," etc. It can not be wholly accidental that the important subject of vegetable physiology, a subject in which barely a trace of experimental work has yet been done in this country, was placed first in the enumeration. Then comes pathology of plants, in which some progress has been made by American students, both being coupled with similar investigations for animals. Few indications more clearly show the rapid advancement of botany in public estimation than this prominence of the subject in a legislative movement for the improvement of a great industry. Indeed, the law gives more latitude for botanical work than appears at first sight. Of the ten specifically mentioned subjects for investigation, nine give the opportunity for a well educated botanist of the modern school to do good and lasting work, the only non-botanical subject being "the analysis of soils and water," although if hard driven